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Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (CHRISTOPHER, WARREN)

SUBJECT: DRAFT OPENING STATEMENT AND QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY'S PRESS CONFERENCE.

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE DRAFT OPENING STATEMENT AND Q'S AND A'S PREPARED FOR THE DEPUTY SECRETARY'S PRESS CONFERENCE. THE EMBASSY'S ASSISTANCE IN DEVELOPING THE TEXT IS GREATLY APPRECIATED.

2. QUOTE: DRAFT OPENING STATEMENT

THE PURPOSE OF MY SHORT STOP IN INDIA -- AN OPPORTUNITY AFFORDED BY THE TRIP I AM UNDERTAKING TO A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD -- WAS TO MEET AND TALK WITH OFFICIALS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, PARTICULARLY THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, MR. VAJPAYEE, AND THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, MR. PATEL. I AM VERY SORRY THAT THE ABSENCE OF PRIME MINISTER DESAI PRECLUDED MY CALLING ON HIM.

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FRUITFUL COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES BEYOND EXISTING BILATERAL ARRANGEMENTS -- SUCH AS THE INDO-AMERICAN JOINT COMMISSION AND ITS THREE SUBCOMMISSIONS -- THAT AL-

READY GIVE USEFUL SUBSTANCE TO OUR RELATIONSHIP. OBVIOUSLY, IT IS NOT POSSIBLE IN SUCH A SHORT TIME TO TRANSACT MAJOR ITEMS OF BUSINESS. MY TALKS WITH MR. VAJPAYEE AND MR. PATEL GAVE US AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLAIN OUR RESPECTIVE POLICIES ON A VARIETY OF IMPORTANT QUESTIONS, WHICH BEAR NOT ONLY ON THIS REGION BUT THE WORLD AT LARGE. MY TALKS

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WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER COVERED SUCH SUBJECTS AS THE INDIAN OCEAN, THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE PROSPECTS FOR AGREEMENT ON STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION. IN MY MEETING WITH THE FINANCE MINISTER WE DISCUSSED BILATERAL ECONOMIC MATTERS, AS WELL AS OUR MUTUAL INTEREST IN STRENGTHENING THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE DEVELOPING AND THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, NOW BEING PURSUED ALMOST NON-STOP IN A SERIES OF INTERNATIONAL FORUMS. MY TALKS TODAY HAVE FORTIFIED MY IMPRESSION THAT INDO-U.S. RELATIONS ARE ON A PROMISING COURSE. I AM CONVINCED WE ARE WELL ON OUR WAY TO ACHIEVING A CLOSER RELATIONSHIP MARKED BY GROWING MUTUAL TRUST AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS. PERSONALLY I HAVE BEEN MOST CORDIALLY RECEIVED BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, AND I AM GRATEFUL FOR THE CHANCE I HAVE HAD TO LEARN FIRSTHAND HOW INDIA ENVISAGES THE FURTHER COURSE OF ITS DIPLOMACY. NOW I AM PREPARED TO TAKE ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE.

INDIAN OCEAN:

Q: WHAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN TALKS WITH THE SOVIET UNION CONCERNING THE INDIAN OCEAN? THE ORIGINAL OBJECTIVE OF THESE TALKS WAS THE DEMILITARIZATION OF THE AREA. HAS THE OBJECTIVE BEEN DOWNGRADED, SO THAT NOW
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ONLY THE MAINTENANCE OF THE STATUS QUO, ARMS LIMITATION, IS SOUGHT? DID YOU DISCUSS THIS WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER?

A: AS THE UNITED STATES HAS INDICATED, WE ARE OPPOSED TO AN ARMS RACE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AND WISH TO AVOID AN ESCALATION OF THE ARMS RACE IN THE REGION. WE RECOGNIZE THAT THIS WILL NOT BE AN EASY TASK, BUT AS PRESIDENT CARTER HAS STATED THE FIRST STEP ONE CAN MAKE IS TOWARD AN AGREEMENT STABILIZING THE LEVEL OF U.S. AND SOVIET MILITARY PRESENCES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. INDEED, WE ARE ALSO READY TO CONSIDER MOVING TOWARD REDUCTION OF MILITARY PRESENCES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. THE JUNE ROUND OF TALKS WITH THE SOVIET UNION WERE CONDUCTED IN A SERIOUS MANNER BY BOTH SIDES AND HAVE BEGUN A PROCESS WHICH WE HOPE WILL LEAD TO TANGIBLE RESULTS. THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND I DISCUSSED THIS TOPIC, AND WE ARE OF COURSE INTERESTED IN INDIA'S VIEWS GIVEN YOUR POSITION AS AN IMPORTANT LITTORAL COUNTRY.

Q: WHY DOES THE U.S. CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN A BASE AT DIEGO GARICA, WHEN THE USSR DOES NOT HAVE SUCH A PRESENCE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN?

A: AT DIEGO GARCIA WE HAVE DEVELOPED A LIMITED FACILITY CAPABLE OF PROVIDING LIMITED SUPPORT TO U.S. FORCES TEMPO-

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RARILY IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. THE USSR ALSO MAKES USE OF FACILITIES LOCATED IN THE REGION. THE U.S. AND SOVIET UNION HAVE BEGUN DISCUSSIONS ON SEEKING TO LIMIT THEIR MILITARY PRESENCES IN THE REGION. WE ARE HOPEFUL OF MAKING PROGRESS.

VANCE'S ASIA SPEECH :

Q: WHY DID NOT SECRETARY VANCE MENTION INDIA IN HIS RE-CENT SPEECH ABOUT ASIA? (JUNE SPEECH AT THE ASIA
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SOCIETY IN NEW YORK)

A: THE SECRETARY'S SPEECH CONCERNED EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC, IT DID NOT DEAL WITH SOUTH ASIA. MOST RECENTLY (JUNE) ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON, WHO IS IN CHARGE OF NEAR EASTERN AND SOUTH ASIAN AFFAIRS IN THE STATE DEPART-MENT, PUBLICLY SPELLED OUT OUR APPROACH TOWARD INDIA. AS HE POINTED OUT, THERE IS A RESURGENCE OF INTEREST IN INDIA IN THE UNITED STATES AT THE PRESENT TIME. I SHOULD LIKE TO REAFFIRM THAT THE COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRACY BY THE INDIAN PEOPLE IS A DEVELOPMENT OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE FOR THE ENTIRE WORLD. IN HIS MAJOR FOREIGN POLICY SPEECH AT NOTRE DAME ON MAY 22, PRESIDENT CARTER SINGLED OUT INDIA AS ONE OF "DEMOCRACY'S GREAT RECENT SUCCESSES." THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO INDICATED ITS ADMIRATION FOR THE STATES-MANLIKE MANNER IN WHICH INDIA AND THE OTHER NATIONS OF SOUTH ASIA HAVE BEEN NORMALIZING RELATIONS DIRECTLY BETWEEN THEMSELVES WITHOUT OUTSIDE INTERVENTION. WHILE WE HAVE NO DIRECT ROLE TO PLAY IN THIS PROCESS OF REGIONAL ACCOMMODA-TION, WE ENCOURAGE IT AND ARE CAREFUL TO DO NOTHING TO UP-SET IT. IT IS A PROUD EXAMPLE TO THE REST OF THE WORLD OF HOW REGIONS CAN BY THEMSELVES WORK OUT THEIR PROBLEMS.

AID AND IDA V:

Q: DID YOU DISCUSS BILATERAL AID WITH THE MINISTER OF FINANCE?

A: I CONFIRMED OUR WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS WITH YOUR PEOPLE A RENEWED BILATERAL AID PROGRAM IF INDIA WISHES THIS.

Q: WHY IS THE U.S. TRYING TO REDUCE INDIA'S SHARE OF WORLD
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BANK (IDA V) LOANS?

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A: WE ARE NOT TRYING TO REDUCE INDIA'S SHARE. THE WORLD BANK AND ITS EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS PERIODICALLY REVIEW THE CRITERIA FOR WORLD BANK ASSISTANCE. WE HAVE MADE SUGGESTIONS AS TO THESE CRITERIA AND AT THE SAME TIME ARE RECOMMENDING TO OUR CONGRESS A LARGE INCREASE IN OUR CONTRIBUTION UNDER IDA V.

PAKISTAN:

Q: WHAT IS THE ATTITUDE OF THE U.S. TOWARDS THE NEW MILITARY GOVERNMENT IN PAKISTAN?

A: IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE FOR ME TO COMMENT FROM INDIA ON INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS IN A NEIGHBORING COUNTRY.

Q: WHAT IS THE POSITION OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT ON ARMS SHIPMENTS TO PAKISTAN?

A: PRESIDENT CARTER HAS RECENTLY ANNOUNCED A NEW POLICY LIMITING THE TRANSFER OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS. WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THIS POLICY OUR POSITION TOWARDS THE SUBCONTINENT CONTINUES TO BE THAT WE WILL NOT STIMULATE AN ARMS RACE IN THE REGION. WE WILL NOT BY OUR ACTIONS INTERFERE WITH THE PROCESS OF NORMALIZATION BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN. THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT WE WILL SELL ARMS TO INDIA OR PAKISTAN, BUT IT DOES MEAN THAT SPECIFIC REQUESTS FROM EITHER COUNTRY WOULD BE CAREFULLY EXAMINED ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS WITHIN THE CONFINES OF THIS RESTRICTIVE POLICY.

Q: IS THE UNITED STATES GOING TO INSIST ON INSPECTION AND SAFEGUARDS ON ALL OF INDIA'S NUCLEAR FACILITIES, INCLUDING THOSE NOT ASSISTED BY THE UNITED STATES, AS A CONDITION FOR THE FUTURE SUPPLY OF NUCLEAR FUEL FOR
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TARAPUR, FOR WHICH THE UNITED STATES HAS A BILATERAL COMMITMENT? DID YOU DISCUSS THIS WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER?

A: AS YOU KNOW, WE RECENTLY AGREED TO A SHIPMENT OF ENRICHED URANIUM FUEL FOR TARAPUR. AS THE PRIME MINISTER MENTIONED IN PARLIAMENT THE OTHER DAY, OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS WILL SOON BEGIN DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING NON-PROLIFERATION. WE EXPECT THAT THE ISSUE WHICH YOU HAVE RAISED, AS WELL AS OTHERS, WILL COME UP AS WE CONSIDER HOW WE CAN ACHIEVE OUR SHARED OBJECTIVE OF HALTING NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION. (CONTINGENT UPON WHAT TAKES PLACE AT THE MEETING WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER;) I DID NOT DEAL AT LENGTH WITH THIS SUBJECT IN MY TALKS WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER. OTHER U.S.

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OFFICIALS WILL BE MEETING WITH THEIR INDIAN COUNTER-PARTS SHORTLY.

Q: WHEN AND WHERE WILL THESE TALKS TAKE PLACE AND WHO WILL PARTICIPATE IN THEM?

A: DR. JOSEPH NYE AND COLLLAGUES FROM ERDA AND ACDA EXPECT TO BE HERE AUGUST 1-3.

Q: WILL THE UNITED STATES TERMINATE ITS SUPPLY OF NUCLEAR FUEL IF INDIA CONDUCTS ANOTHER PEACEFUL NUCLEAR TEST?

A: AS A PRACTICAL MATTER, IN VIEW OF SENTIMENTS IN THE U.S. ESPECIALLY AMONG OUR LEGISLATORS THE U.S. WILL NOT BE ABLE TO CONTINUE NUCLEAR EXPORTS SHOULD A COUNTRY DETONATE A NUCLEAR DEVICE. THIS IS NOT JUST A MATTER OF ADMINISTRA-TIVE POLICY BUT WILL IN ALL LIKELIHOOD BECOME A STATUTORY REQUIREMENT.
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Q: IS THE UNITED STATES SEEKING TO PREVENT INDIA FROM DE-VELOPING BREEDER REACTOR TECHNOLOGY?

A: THE UNITED STATES HAS PROPOSED AN INTERNATIONAL EXAMI-NATION OF ALL FUEL CYCLES SO THAT NATIONS CAN DEVELOP AND UTILIZE THOSE TECHNOLOGIES FOR POWER GENERATION WHICH ARE LEAST RISKY FROM A PROLIFERATION STANDPOINT.

Q: WHY DOES THE UNITED STATES CONTINUE TO PREVENT INDIA FROM REPROCESSING SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL?

A:THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS URGED ALL NATIONS TO DELAY REPROCESSING UNTIL BETTER TECHNOLOGIES CAN BE DEVELOPED, LESS RISKY FROM A PROLIFERATION STANDPOINT. IN INDIA OUR DIRECT INTEREST RELATES TO SPENT FUEL PRODUCED FROM ENRICH-ED URANIUM WHICH THE UNITED STATES HAS SUPPLIED. ACCORD-ING TO OUR AGREEMENT WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, ANY USE OF THIS SPENT FUEL REQUIRES A JOINT DETERMINATION ON SAFE-GUARDS AND AT THIS POINT WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT ONE CAN ADEQUATELY SAFEGUARD REPROCESSING.

Q: DOES THIS MEAN THE U.S. WILL NOT AGREE TO THE REPROCESS-ING OF SPENT FUEL WHICH IT HAS SUPPLIED?

A: YES OR AT LEAST UNTIL SOME BETTER TECHNOLOGY IS DEVELOP-ED, ONE WHICH IS LESS RISKY FROM A PROLIFERATION STANPOINT.

PAKISTAN REPROCESSING:

Q: WHAT IS THE UNITED STATES DOING TO PREVENT PAKISTAN

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FROM BUILDING A REPROCESSING PLANT WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF
THE FRENCH?

A: IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRATE FOR ME TO COMMENT HERE ON
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MATTERS CONCERNING A NEIGHBOR OF INDIA'S. IT IS NO SECRET,
HOWEVER, THAT THE U.S. HOPES PAKISTAN WILL NOT PROCEED WITH
ITS REPROCESSING PLANT. END QUOTE

3. COMMENT: EMBASSY WILL NOTE THAT ONLY MAJOR SUBSTANTIVE
CHANGE FROM LANGUAGE IT PROPOSED WAS MADE ON BILATERAL
ASSISTANCE. OUR PURPOSE IN MAKING THE CHANGE IS TO MAIN-
TAIN A LOW PROFILE ON THIS ISSUE TO AVOID GIVING THE INDIANS
THE IMPRESSION THAT WE ARE PRESSING AID ON THEM. VANCE

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